#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 94-12**

# GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR THE STUDY OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION INDUSTRY IN ARIZONA

WHEREAS, the future of our state's ability to compete in the global marketplace requires a strong and competitive telecommunications and information industry; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to determine whether Arizona's public policies are in line to meet these telecommunication and information needs; and

WHEREAS, study of these policies can best be achieved by the creation of a Commission,

NOW, I HEREFORE, I, Fife Symington, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the power vested in me do hereby create the Governor's Commission For The Study of the Telecommunications and Information Industry in Arizona, and order and direct that:

- Ihis Commission shall work under the auspices and within the framework of the Advanced Information and Communications Infrastructure (AICI) foundation of the Governor's Strategic Partnership for Economic Development (GSPED). The Commission shall work within the GSPED economic development framework with a focus on creating, growing and attracting globally competitive business and quality jobs in Arizona. The Commission shall recommend contracts with experienced consulting firms and work with GSPED cluster and foundation leaders to make policy recommendations for implementation including, if appropriate, submission to the Legislature for statutory changes
- 2. The initial members of the Commission shall consist of:
  - a) the Governor or his designee;
  - b) the Director of the Department of Administration or his designee;
  - c) the Director of the Department of Commerce or her designee;
  - d) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, of which one shall be the Chairman of the House Commerce Committee and of which no more than two may be of the same political party;
  - e) three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, of which one shall be the Chairman of the Senate Commerce and Economic Development Committee and of which no more than two may be of the same political party;
  - the Director of the Arizona State Public Information Network (ASPIN) from the Arizona university system;
  - g) the Chairperson of the AICI Foundation, other members from the GSPED AICI Foundation and GSPED business clusters and foundations, with a balance between telecommunications and information users, enterprises, and providers to accommodate an equivalent number of private and public sector members

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The initial members may add such other members as they deem necessary, including, but not limited to, representatives from industry and business, the universities and major users

- 3. To facilitate the Commission's activities, the Commission is empowered to contract with professional consultants with experience and expertise in the telecommunications and information fields. The Commission shall direct their attentions to both the national and global issues by:
  - a) gathering information through a review of existing primary literature;
  - b) obtaining input from the Federal Communications Commission;
  - c) reviewing policies and comparable studies from other states;
  - evaluating existing and emerging national and international telecommunications policies and trends;
- 4. The Commission shall also address these issues in the State of Arizona by:
  - reviewing recent studies and positions of public-private groups and associations addressing the telecommunications and information fields;
  - conducting interviews and/or focus groups with individuals in the GSPED economic clusters and foundations, and major urban and rural economic development professionals;
  - c) sampling views representative of major customers and telecommunications users;
  - d) obtaining input from telephone companies, common carriers, alternative local access providers, cable companies and service providers across the state;
  - e) obtaining input from the Arizona Corporation Commission and RUCO.
- 5. The study should include these findings and recommendations:
  - a) how best to position Arizona for the competitive "information age" environment of the future;
  - b) the impact of known future technological changes;
  - c) enumeration of the issues facing the telecommunications industry by current pricing structure and levels;
  - how shifting of revenues may create difficulties to some service providers and opportunities to others;

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- e) suggestions on how Arizona can leverage the telecommunications and information industry for jobs and economic development;
- f) identification of the issues that arise from technological innovation for the monopoly "local exchange" telephone business and the competitive telecommunications business;
- g) the nature and extent of competition of various levels in the telecommunications industry and review existing policies to assess those that promote and impede competition;
- h) ease of entry and exit into the marketplace;
- i) unique needs of Arizona telecommunication and information enterprises;
- the effects of the current regulatory structure on the telecommunications industry and economic development and quality jobs in Arizona's commercial users;
- the effects of the state tax structure on the telecommunications and information services industries;
- alternatives to rate of return regulation within the fair value context and absent the fair value requirement;
- m) whether any change in the regulatory structure will promote or inhibit adequate service and just and reasonable rates, and the effect of such changes on different classes of business, residential users, including universal access and how such changes would affect public interest;
- mechanisms necessary to address varying competitive conditions for particular telecommunications products, services or markets;
- o) other relevant characteristics of the telecommunications and information industries and their users in the marketplace.
- 6. Ihe Commission should identify funding for the conduct of the study through a combination of public sector funding and contributions by private sector participants prior to recommending contracting for any outside professional services
- 7. The study shall be completed by the Commission by December 15, 1994. Consideration of any legislative action recommended by the Commission should occur during the 1995 Regular Session of the Arizona Legislature.

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IN WIINESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

**GOVERNOR** 

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix this eighth day of July in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four and of the Independence of the United States the Iwo Hundred and Eighteenth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State